

Message Text

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APPROVED BY ARA/LA:HERMAN KLEINE

ARA:WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207024

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT:PHASE-OUT OF AID PROGRAM

REF: BOGOTA 8169

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM RYAN AND KLEINE

1. WE WELCOME NEWS OF GOC CONSENSUS TO PHASE-OUT AID PROGRAM BY THE END OF FY 76 FOR REASONS GIVEN. BOTH GOVERNMENTS CAN INDEED TAKE CONSIDERABLE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT THE COLLABORATIVE BILATERAL PROGRAM HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE AND, AS COLOMBIA IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY ABLE TO SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF DEVELOPMENT ITSELF, THE BILATERAL PROGRAM CAN BE PHASED-OUT. WE AGREE WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT AN APPROPRIATE ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT BE MADE DURING THE STATE VISIT OF

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PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED IN THE BILATERAL

AID EFFORT AND THE CONSEQUENT MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON A PHASE-OUT.

2. IN FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS WITH FINANCE MINISTER BOTERO, YOU MAY ASSURE HIM THAT AID IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER GRANT AND LOAN FUNDING FOR HIGH PRIORITY COLOMBIAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS DURING FY 76 WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FY 76 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION FOR COLOMBIA, SUBJECT AS ALWAYS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. AID WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO CONSIDER LIMITED GRANT FUNDING IN FY 77, IF NEEDED, TO ASSURE AN ORDERLY PHASE-OUT. USAID SHOULD PROCEED TO DEVELOP A PHASE-OUT PLAN IN COORDINATION WITH THE GOC FOR WASHINGTON APPROVAL.

3. WE AGREE THAT THERE IS A MORE TRANSCENDENTAL ISSUE OF HOW THE U.S. RELATES TO COLOMBIA AS THE TRADITIONAL DONOR/CLIENT RELATIONSHIP WITHERS AWAY. WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR VIEWS ON THIS COMPLEX SUBJECT AND SUGGEST THAT IT BE A CENTRAL THEME IN AN EMBASSY/DEPARTMENTAL DIALOGUE OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS.

4. AS FOR THE NARROWER QUESTION OF A POST-AID RELATIONSHIP WITH COLOMBIA, WE WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN SEEKING WAYS TO MAKE US TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO COLOMBIAN INSTITUTIONS THAT DESIRE IT. ONE METHOD IS THE SECTION 661 AUTHORITY UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WHICH PERMITS AID TO EXPLORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF REIMBURSABLE PROGRAMS IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING VENEZUELA, WHERE AID HAS BEEN PHASED-OUT. WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SENDING A CONSULTANT TO COLOMBIA TO DISCUSS SUCH A PROGRAM WHEN AND IF REQUESTED BY THE COLOMBIANS. SUCH DISCUSSIONS COULD ALSO BE HELD WITH APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY DURING THE STATE VISIT IF DESIRED BY THE GOC.

5. KLEINE AS YOU KNOW IS PLANNING TO VISIT BOGOTA ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH 24 AND COULD DISCUSS THE PHASE-OUT PLAN FURTHER AT THAT TIME.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE CONFIRMATION AS
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TO WHETHER GOC DESIRES PROCEED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT DURING THE STATE VISIT. IF SO WE SHALL SUGGEST SCENARIO. INGERSOLL

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